

Madison-Harmonie Historic District

General boundaries: Madison, E. Grand River, Center, and Randolph.

Local v 5/17/88
State
State Marker
National



241 Madison Detroit Athletic Club

Historic overview:

The Madison Harmonie Historic District is comprised of 16 buildings at the northeast section of the Central Business District. The buildings range from moderate to large scale mixed use, including apartments, commercial buildings, a cultural institution and parking garages.

The land was part of two plots, Governor and Judges Plan and the Brush Farm. After the Great fire of Detroit in 1805 plans to rebuild the city were developed by Judge Woodward on the idea of streets radiating from a central point in the shape of a hexagon. This would create diagonal streets, vistas and public spaces including parks like the one bounded by Randolph, E. Grand River and Center St.. Because it is isolated from direct traffic it has remained unspoiled. After the fire every resident over the age of 17 living in the area at the time of the fire was given land no more that 5000 square feet. The area was largely settled by an immigrant German population and had brick and frame private houses. By the turn of the century commercial buildings replaced the houses as the city boundaries expanded. These new structures were built between 1895-1924. In 1976 the park was redesigned to include a fountain, benches and tables.

Some of the more notable buildings in the district include; the Detroit Athletic Club (1915) designed by Albert Kahn, the Harmonie Club (1894-5) by prominent German architect Richard E. Raseman, the Milner Hotel (1912) by Harley & Acheson and Music Hall (1928) by Smith, Hinchman & Grylls. Two buildings have been lost to demolition, Roy Court Apartments (1906) designed by Pollmar & Ropes and the original D. A. C. parking structure (1915 & 1921). The Madison Lennox Hotel (1900 & 1903) is currently threatened by proposed demolition.

